

# RETURN

(71)

To an ORDER of the HOUSE OF COMMONS, dated November 30, 1911, for a copy of all documents, &c., necessary to bring up to date the statement regarding the matters covered by Sessional Paper 109 of the session of 1910-11, in reference to Canadian-Australian Trade.

W. J. ROCHE,  
Secretary of State.

Reference No. 17.

Mover: Mr. Ames.

OTTAWA, January 15, 1912.

## DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

### FURTHER MEMORANDUM RESPECTING THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND AUSTRALIA WITH A VIEW TO ARRANGING RECIPROCAL TRADE RELATIONS.

The last note on this subject included in the Return moved for by Mr. Ames asking for 'A concise history of the negotiations in regard to reciprocal trade since 1900, with the Australian Commonwealth,' was that of December 16, 1910.

*April 10, 1911.*

Mr. Ross advises the Department of Trade and Commerce that the Australian Prime Minister had indicated that he hoped to go into reciprocal trade matters with Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the Conference in London.

*September 15, 1911.*

Mr. Ross reports that he recently had several interviews with the Minister of Trade and Customs and Comptroller General in regard to reciprocal trade between Canada and Australia. Mr. Ross also stated that he had a brief interview with the Prime Minister. The latter expressed his personal sympathy in the matter and asked Mr. Ross to submit to him any further data he could in relation to the recent trade between the two countries. This Mr. Ross did. The Comptroller General informed Mr. Ross that 'the exchange of a minimum tariff of both countries would likely be the extent of the Minister's (Trade and Customs) decision at this juncture.'

*September 23, 1911.*

Mr. Ross reports that he had an appointment with the Minister of Customs for September 22, but on account of a 'Want of Confidence' motion having been moved in the Australian House he was unable to see the Minister. Mr. Ross expressed the opinion that the Australian Government would pass an Act this session if an opportunity occurred to exchange the present Australian Minimum Preferential Tariff on goods the product of the United Kingdom for the Canadian Minimum Preferential Tariff.



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*October 20, 1911.*

Mr. Ross by appointment interviewed the Minister of Trade and Customs and the latter authorized him to inform the Canadian Government that 'he hoped to have an opportunity of introducing a Bill in to the Commonwealth Parliament before the close of the present session (probably between December 10th and 15th next), whereby the present Australian Preferential Tariff upon goods imported from the United Kingdom would be extended to Canadian goods and products in exchange for the present Canadian Minimum Tariff, to be made applicable to Australian goods and products imported into Canada.'

*November 21, 1911.*

Mr. Ross cabled the department asking whether the Canadian Government thought it desirable that he should make a final effort, as the Australian Parliament would close about the middle of December.

*December 28 1911.*

The following letter was addressed to the Honourable Mr. Tudor, Minister of Trade and Customs for Australia, by the Honourable Minister of Trade and Commerce:—

Since 1898 our two countries have been endeavouring from time to time to arrive at an agreement for better mutual trade relations, but so far without success. In the meantime, Canada has admitted the British Colonies, including the West Indies as also the Dominions of South Africa and New Zealand, to the advantages of her British preferential reduction over non preferred countries, and which amounts to about 30% of the duty. A return has been accorded by South Africa and New Zealand, and negotiations are now going on for a preferential return from the West Indies, and with fair prospects of success.

It seems to me too bad that with our great sister Dominion in the Pacific, we have not been long since able to arrange our trade on a preferential basis, and I can assure you that Canada is very desirous both on sentimental grounds and for reasons of mutual advantage, that this anomaly shall be removed as speedily as possible.

We give you already a considerable free list for some of your staple products, although we get no very great return from you in that respect for any of great staples. We stand ready to give you a substantial preference upon all articles of export in return for a substantial preference to our exports to your country and a free entrance for some of our natural products. Proposals have been made to exchange your limited preference for a limited preference of entry into our country, but it scarcely seems adequate that we should proceed on so restricted a basis.

Can we not at least approach the matter with a sincere desire and a determination to come to some fair agreement, and thus bind our two countries closer together on the lines of commercial intercourse and exchange. If your Government will make a proposition, I shall be very much pleased to take it up with my colleagues, and to pursue the negotiations with you to a finish, and I do not see why we should not come to conclusions which would be mutually advantageous. Once preferential inducements are added, our steamship communications can be bettered, and by this means our two kindred peoples will become more intimately acquainted with and interested in each other.

If, on the other hand, you wish Canada to make a proposition to you with the assurance that you desire to follow it to a completion, I shall be glad to place a proposal before you for consideration.

May I hope to hear from you in good time. Our Mr. Ross will give you any desired information as to our products, our exports and imports.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE,

OTTAWA, January 12, 1912.